



## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

# Interim Guidance for Implementing Home Care of People Not Requiring Hospitalization for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

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This interim guidance is for staff at local and state health departments, infection prevention and control professionals, and healthcare personnel who are coordinating the home care and isolation<sup>1</sup> of people with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection, including persons under investigation (see [Criteria to Guide Evaluation of Persons Under Investigation \(PUI\) for COVID-19](#)). This includes patients evaluated in an outpatient setting who do not require hospitalization (i.e., patients who are medically stable and can receive care at home) or patients who are discharged home following a hospitalization with confirmed COVID-19 infection.

In general, people should adhere to home isolation until the risk of secondary transmission is thought to be low. Visit the [Preventing the Spread of Coronavirus Disease 2019 in Homes and Residential Communities](#) page for more information.

This document does not apply to patients in healthcare settings. For interim healthcare infection prevention and control recommendations, see [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Patients with Known or Persons Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) in a Healthcare Setting](#). CDC will update this interim guidance as needed and as more information becomes available.



### **Preventing COVID-19 from Spreading in Homes and Communities:**

Interim guidance that may help prevent COVID-19 from spreading among people in homes and in communities.

## Assess the Suitability of the Residential Setting for Home Care

In consultation with state or local health department staff, a healthcare professional should assess whether the residential setting is appropriate for home care. Considerations for care at home include whether:

- The patient is stable enough to receive care at home.
- Appropriate caregivers are available at home.
- There is a separate bedroom where the patient can recover without sharing immediate space with others.
- Resources for access to food and other necessities are available.
- The patient and other household members are capable of adhering to [precautions recommended as part of home](#)

[care or isolation](#). A caregiver may wear a [cloth face covering](#) when caring for a person who is sick, however the protective effects (how well the cloth face covering protects healthy people from breathing in the virus) are unknown. Note: During the COVID-19 pandemic, medical grade facemasks are reserved for healthcare workers and some first responders. A cloth face covering may need to be improvised using a scarf or bandana. [Learn more here](#).

- There are household members who may be at increased risk of [severe illness from COVID-19 infection](#). See [People Who Are at Increased Risk for Severe Illness](#) to find out who is at increased risk.

## Provide Guidance for Precautions to Implement during Home Care

A healthcare professional should

- Provide CDC's [Interim Guidance for Preventing Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) from Spreading to Others in Homes and Communities](#) to the patient, caregiver, and household members; and
- Contact their state or local health department to discuss criteria for discontinuing any such measures. Check available hours when contacting local health departments.

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Isolation is defined as the separation or restriction of activities of an ill person with a contagious disease from those who are well.

## Additional Resources

- [Interim Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Persons Under Investigation for Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Preventing Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) from Spreading to Others in Homes and Communities](#)
- [Interim Guidance for Healthcare Professionals](#)

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